

VERBENA PLANT NAMED 'SUNMARIBAGADI'

Botanical/commercial classification:

*Verbena hybrida*/Verbena Plant

5 Varietal denomination: cv. 'sunmaribagadi'

## BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

10 The present invention relates to a new variety of  
Verbena plant originated from open-pollination of a  
Verbena hybrid variety called 'H116-1', named  
'Sunmaribagadi.

15 The Verbena is a very popular plant and is used for  
flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There  
are only a few varieties of Verbena plants having a  
decumbent growth habit, abundant branching, many flowers  
in a cluster, and a high resistance to heat, rain, and  
disease. Accordingly, this invention was aimed at  
20 obtaining a new variety having a decumbent growth habit,  
much branching, many dark reddish purple flowers in a  
spike, high tolerance to heat and rain, and resistance to  
disease and pests.

## 25 Progress

The female parent 'H116-1' (unpatented) used in the  
open-pollination of 'Sunmaribagadi' is a strain of our  
breeding lines, having decumbent growth habit with long  
30 stems. It forms abundant clusters of attractive purplish  
red blossoms.

In October 2000, 50 seedlings were obtained from the  
natural crosses of Verbena variety called 'H116-1' grown  
35 in a controlled environment at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken,  
Japan. These seedlings were grown in pots in glasshouses  
and were evaluated. One seedling was selected in view of

its growth habit and flower color in October 2001. That seedling was propagated by cutting and a trial was carried out by flower potting and bedding from April to October 2002. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using similar varieties 'Sunmariwaba' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,104) and 'Sunmariro' for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this Verbena plant is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known to us, and uniform and stable in its characteristics. Then the new variety of Verbena plant was named 'Sunmaribagadi'.

In the following description, the color-cording is in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart).

#### SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety is unlike any Verbena commercially available as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

1. Decumbent growth habit with abundant branching.
2. Plentiful number of flowers in a spike having great profusion of blooms with the entire plant remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time.
3. Long flowering duration.
4. The petal color is dark purplish red (R.H.S. 59A).
5. The plant has a high resistance to rain, heat, disease and pests.

The new variety 'Sunmaribagadi' differs from the similar variety 'Sunmariwaba' in the following points.

1. The plant height of 'Sunmaribagadi' is higher than that of 'Sunmariwaba'.
2. The internode length of 'Sunmaribagadi' is

shorter than that of 'Sunmariwaba'.

3. The leaf of 'Sunmaribagadi' is narrower than that of 'Sunmariwaba'.

5 4. The spike length of 'Sunmaribagadi' is shorter than that of 'Sunmariwaba'.

5. The flower color of 'Sunmaribagadi' is dark purplish red (R.H.S. 59A). That of 'Sunmariwaba' is strong purplish red (R.H.S. 71A) with a small eye.

10 6. The calyx of 'Sunmaribagadi' is shorter than that of 'Sunmariwaba'.

The new variety 'Sunmaribagadi' differs from the similar variety 'Sunmariro' in the following points.

15 1. The plant size of 'Sunmaribagadi' is more compact than that of 'Sunmariro'.

2. The internode length of 'Sunmaribagadi' is shorter than that of 'Sunmariro'.

3. The leaf of 'Sunmaribagadi' is narrower than that of 'Sunmariro'.

20 4. The spike length of 'Sunmaribagadi' is shorter than that of 'Sunmariro'.

5. The flower color of 'Sunmaribagadi' is dark purplish red (R.H.S. 59A). That of 'Sunmariro' is vivid red (R.H.S. 77B).

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This new variety of Verbena Plant 'Sunmaribagadi' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, and homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. The instant plant  
30 retains its distinctive characteristics and reproduces, true to type in successive generations.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

35 The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during April 2003 while growing outdoors in 30 cm pots at an age of approximately

6 months at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

FIG. 1 illustrates a typical plant of the new variety of Verbena plant 'Sunmaribagadi'.

5        FIG. 2 illustrates a close view of typical blossoms of the new variety of Verbena plant 'Sunmaribagadi'.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

10        The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of Verbena plant named 'Sunmaribagadi' are as follows when observed during October at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, at an age of 6 months.

##### Plant:

15        Growth habit.-- Decumbent.  
         Plant width.-- Approximately 60-70 cm.  
         Plant height.-- Approximately 26 cm.

##### Stem:

         Diameter.-- Approximately 2.0-3.0 mm.  
20        Anthocyanin pigmentation.-- Absent.  
         Pubescence.-- Dense.  
         Prickles.-- Absent.  
         Branching.-- Abundant.  
         Subterranean stem.-- Absent.  
25        Length of internode.-- Approximately 1.4-2.5 cm.

##### Leaf:

         Phyllotaxis.-- Opposite.  
         Shape of blade.-- Hastate.  
         Apex shape.-- Obtuse.  
30        Base shape.-- Truncate.  
         Margin.-- Serrate.  
         Depth of blade incision.-- Shallow.  
         Length.-- Approximately 2.5-2.8 cm.  
         Width.-- Approximately 1.0-1.3 cm.  
35        Color.-- R.H.S. 137A (Dark olive green).  
         Pubescence.-- Dense.  
         Petiole.-- Absent.

Flower:

- Shape of cluster.-- Obconical.
- Cluster length.-- Approximately 1.7-2.7 cm.
- Cluster diameter.-- Approximately 3.9-5.0 cm.
- 5 Facing direction.-- Upward.
- Floret diameter.-- Approximately 1.5-1.7 cm.
- Floret length.-- Approximately 1.7-1.9 cm.
- Color of petal.-- R.H.S. 59A (Dark purplish red).
- Eye color.-- Absent.
- 10 Variegation.-- Absent.
- Petal apex.-- Emarginate.
- Number of petals.-- Generally 5.
- Calyx length.-- Approximately 0.8-1.0 cm.
- Calyx shape.-- Tubular. Sepals having an acute apex in
- 15 fused at the base.
- Reproductive organs.-- 1 pistil and 4 stamens.
- Pistil shape.-- Bifid.
- Anther color.-- R.H.S. 1B (Yellow green).
- Filament color.-- R.H.S. 1B (Yellow green).
- 20 Pollen.-- Present in a moderate quantity.
- Stigma color.-- R.H.S. 4D.
- Style color.-- R.H.S. 144B.
- Ovaries.-- Commonly four in number.
- Peduncle diameter.-- Approximately 1.5-2.0 mm.
- 25 Peduncle length.-- Approximately 1.0-3.0 cm.
- Peduncle color.-- R.H.S. 137C.
- Number of flowers.-- Approximately 17.
- Flower fragrance.-- Absent.
- Flowering time.-- Early.
- 30 Flowering period.-- April to November in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period. A typical flower commonly lasts 5 to 7 days on the plant when experiencing a temperature of approximately 20°C.
- 35 Physiological and ecological characteristics:
  - Tolerance to cold.-- Medium.
  - Tolerance to heat.-- High.

Resistance to disease.-- High.

Resistance to pests.-- High.